

Policy on VOCA Match Waivers

Introduction

This policy addresses match waivers for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant program, in alignment with 34 U.S.C. § 20103(a)(7)(B) (Section 3 of the VOCA Fix). The Utah Office for Victims of Crime (UOVC) requires VOCA subrecipients to meet their match requirements. However, if a subrecipient anticipates difficulty in meeting this requirement, they may submit a request for a match waiver to UOVC. Such requests are generally considered at the start of an award period, and may be for partial or full waivers. UOVC will evaluate these requests on a case-by-case basis, with approval dependent on a well-justified hardship.

This policy outlines the procedures for three types of VOCA match waivers: subrecipient-initiated requests, UOVC-initiated waivers, and mandatory waivers under the National Emergencies Act. Match requirements are automatically waived for subrecipients that are federally recognized American Indian or Alaska Native tribes or for projects operating on tribal lands.

Subrecipient Waiver of Match Request

UOVC encourages subrecipients to meet VOCA match standards to demonstrate their cost-share support and contribute to the sustainability of statewide funding efforts for Utah's victims of crime. However, unforeseen circumstances may impact a subrecipient's ability to provide direct services, warranting a match waiver request. Approval considerations include, but are not limited to:

- Constraints on local resources (e.g., minimal funding availability, limited volunteer capacity, staff recruitment or retention challenges, significant staff turnover).
- Unique or unforeseen situations that impact the subrecipient's normal operations (e.g., natural disasters, mass violence/victimization events).
- An emergency impacting the subrecipient's ability to contribute match.

Subrecipients seeking a full or partial waiver of VOCA match must have their program's Point of Contact complete the [UOVC Match Waiver Application](#). All requested information must be provided; otherwise, the waiver request may be denied.

The VOCA Grant Analyst and the VOCA Grant Administrator will make an official determination within 10 business days, notifying the program's Point of Contact of the decision. UOVC's decision is final.

If a subrecipient with an approved match waiver wishes to renegotiate the terms during the project period, they must submit an electronic request to UOVC, justifying the need for an amended match waiver. This request will be considered, and a decision rendered electronically within 30 days of receipt.

The VOCA Grant Administrator will submit a match waiver spreadsheet listing all approved subrecipient match waivers in a federal fiscal year for each relevant federal award to the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) no later than 120 days after the fiscal year ends. This will be submitted via a Grant Award Modification (GAM) uploaded to JustGrants or by another method as requested by OVC.

UOVC-Initiated Waiver of Match

UOVC has the authority to initiate Match Waivers for individual projects, multiple projects, or all VOCA subrecipients when a direct and substantial burden on the subrecipient's ability to provide services to victims of crime exists. UOVC-initiated Match Waivers are used under unique circumstances, such as:

- Natural disasters.
- Pandemics or other geographic health crises.
- Mass violence/victimization events.
- Internal UOVC staff recruitment/retention challenges.
- Other events as determined by the UOVC

If UOVC determines that one of these unique circumstances exists, they will notify all subrecipients, providing additional guidance. UOVC may streamline the process to expedite match waiver requests from subrecipients based on the eligible circumstances.

The VOCA Grant Administrator will submit a match waiver spreadsheet listing all approved subrecipient match waivers in a federal fiscal year for each relevant federal award to OVC no later than 120 days after the fiscal year ends. This will be submitted via a Grant Award Modification (GAM) uploaded to JustGrants or by another method as requested by OVC.

National Emergencies Act Mandatory Match Waiver

Section 3(b) of the VOCA Fix mandates: “Beginning on the date a national emergency is declared under the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq.) with respect to a pandemic and ending on the date that is one year after the end of such national emergency, SAAs shall issue waivers for any matching requirement, in its entirety, for all eligible crime victim assistance programs contracted to provide services at that time.” UOVC must issue match waivers during this time, understanding that “any matching requirement, in its entirety” refers to the entire match required in an open VOCA subaward that remains unmet at the time of the waiver.

The VOCA Grant Administrator will submit a match waiver spreadsheet listing all approved subrecipient match waivers in a federal fiscal year for each relevant federal award to OVC no later than 120 days after the fiscal year ends. This will be submitted via a Grant Award Modification (GAM) uploaded to JustGrants or by another method as requested by OVC.

After the conclusion of a national emergency period, UOVC will honor all mandatory match waivers granted during the emergency period until the end of the budget period of the applicable VOCA subaward for which match was waived. New VOCA subawards or discretionary renewals/continuations made after the end of the National Emergency period will not qualify for the expired National Emergency Mandatory Match Waiver but may be considered under the Subrecipient Waiver of Match process outlined in this policy.

Authorized By



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